

DECISION TO REJECT

If, after intake and/or preliminary investigation, neither CPS intervention nor a transfer to an agency is determined appropriate, the reasons for rejecting the complaint must be documented in MiSACWIS CPS by using one of the rejection reasons below and approved by supervision. Comments to clarify the selection may be entered into MiSACWIS CPS; see PSM 712-8, CPS Intake Completion.

Reasons To Reject a Complaint

- **Already Investigated** - The allegation is essentially the same instance of child abuse and/or neglect (CA/N) already reported and investigated. If the complaint is being investigated or was rejected, add the second reporting person on the initial complaint; see PSM 712-8, CPS Intake Completion, Multiple Reporting Persons section.
- **Discounted After Preliminary Investigation** - Allegations are proven unfounded after contact with a reliable source with current, accurate, and first-hand information.
- **Complaint Does Not Meet Child Protection Law (CPL) Definition of Child Abuse/Neglect** - The allegations reported do not amount to child abuse/neglect as defined by the CPL (for example, allegations are attributable solely to poverty, etc.).

If the complaint is appropriate for handling by another agency, refer the reporting person to the appropriate agency (for example, the friend of the court (FOC) for child support complaints or other custody issues not related to CA/N, community mental health for mental health services, the school district for truancy issues, etc.).

Note: If the complaint does not meet the CPL definition of child abuse/neglect **but** will be transferred to another agency for investigation (for example, law enforcement for complaints when the alleged perpetrator is not a person responsible for the child's health and welfare, DHS or private agency certification staff for an alleged licensing violation, etc.), the complaint must be documented as "Transferred for Investigation" not as a rejection. See the Complaint

Documentation section of PSM 712-8, CPS Intake Completion for more information.

- **No Reasonable Cause** - Allegations are from second- or third-hand sources, information is vague or insufficient, and/or CPS is unable to establish any basis in fact for the suspicion. Examples are:
 - a. Reporting person cannot give information that leads to the identity or whereabouts of the family.
 - b. Complaint amounts to speculation (versus suspicion) of CA/N (a bruise, injury, mental or physical condition that is more likely the result of something other than CA/N).
 - c. Reporting person reports observing child exhibiting normal, exploratory sexual behavior and speculates the child must have been sexually abused.
- **Reporting Person Unreliable or Not Credible** - Although this reason is occasionally appropriate, it should only be used in extreme and well-documented situations. Examples are:
 - a. Similar complaints have been investigated and repeatedly denied, or the reporting person is known to repeatedly make false or questionable reports.
 - b. Complaint lacks substance and/or definition and is seemingly colored by suspected self-interest of the reporting person, for example, revenge, neighborhood/family squabble, custody battles, etc.

A person who knowingly makes a false complaint of CA/N is guilty of a misdemeanor if the false complaint was about an alleged misdemeanor offense. If the false complaint was about an alleged felony offense of CA/N, the person is guilty of a felony.

- **Out-of-State History Notification** - A notification was received from another state, tribal agency, etc., that children are at risk of harm if in the care of a particular parent and/or person responsible, and there is no indication that the family is residing in Michigan. The notification should be entered into MiSACWIS CPS to document CPS history in the other state/jurisdiction in case a future complaint is received on the family in Michigan.

Reversals

When Centralized Intake (CI) reviews a rejected complaint and makes the decision to assign the case, CI will use the date and time of the review to create another complaint, which will reference the original reporting source and log number.